

I WOULD LIKE TO ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING REASONS TO THE COMMISSION THAT THE PROPOSED MERGER BETWEEN AT&T AND T-MOBILE SHOULD NOT GO THROUGH.

THEY ARE CLOSE COMPETITORS. WHILE FILINGS FROM ATT WOULD TRY TO SHOW THE OPPOSITE, THERE ARE BASICALLY 4 NATIONWIDE CELL CARRIERS. TO ALLOW THIS MERGER OF LARGER ONES BASICALLY LEAVES VERIZON AND ATT/T-MOBILE, AND TRAILING FAR BEHIND, SPRINT. REGIONAL CARRIERS DO NOT POSE A COMPETITIVE FORCE AGAINST THE NATIONWIDE CARRIERS, BECAUSE FOR BUSINESS USERS, THEY ARE WORTHLESS. CARRYING MULTIPLE PHONES AND NUMBERS FOR USE IN VARIOUS CITIES WHILE TRAVELING IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY.

T-MOBILE IS NOT IRRELEVANT IN THE MARKET, THEY ARE A LARGE MARKET FORCE, AND EVEN ASSUMING PARENT COMPANY NEGLECT, GENERATE ENOUGH INCOME TO CONTINUE BUILDING OUT INFRASTRUCTURE.

SPECTRUM CONCENTRATION WITH ATT AFTER THE PROPOSED MERGER WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMER, OR OF THE PUBLIC. DIVESTITURE OF SPECTRUM WOULD STILL LEAVE ONLY 3 COMPANIES WITH NATIONWIDE CAPACITY, AND FRAGMENTED SPECTRUM IS WORTHLESS SPECTRUM.

RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE GETTING SERVICE WITHOUT THIS MERGER. THAT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AS CERTAIN OTHER FCC RULES COME INTO PLAY. THIS SHOULD BE A NON-ISSUE WITH THE COMMISSION.

FOR THESE REASONS AND MORE, I STRONGLY URGE THE COMMISSION TO RULE AGAINST THIS MERGER.